

If Democrats Controlled the House...

A Weekly Taste of Their Legislative Agenda

April 24, 2012



Proposal: H.R. 4379, Women's Option to Raise Kids (WORK) Act

Sponsor: Rep. Fortney Pete Stark (D-CA)

Summary: This proposed law would exempt single parents with children under 60 months of age from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program participation rate requirements.

Problems with the Bill: This proposal would undo an important component of the successful and bipartisan welfare reforms of 1996 by expanding the exemptions from work requirements in the 1996 welfare reform law. The primary goal of welfare should be to help people get back on their feet and achieve the dignity of financial independence. Creating new exemptions from the requirement that welfare recipients must seek to earn their own living would eliminate the very path to independence that helped make the 1996 reforms successful. In the words of Ronald Reagan, "We should measure welfare's success by how many people leave welfare, not by how many are added."

Reminder: RSC staffers and interns are encouraged to send other examples of questionable legislation to Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov.